UGANDA

Building Of A Nation

October 9, 2012

148 SHAPERS AND MOVERS OF UGANDA; PAST AND PRESENT

VISION GROUP
NATIONAL PRIDE • GLOBAL EXCELLENCE

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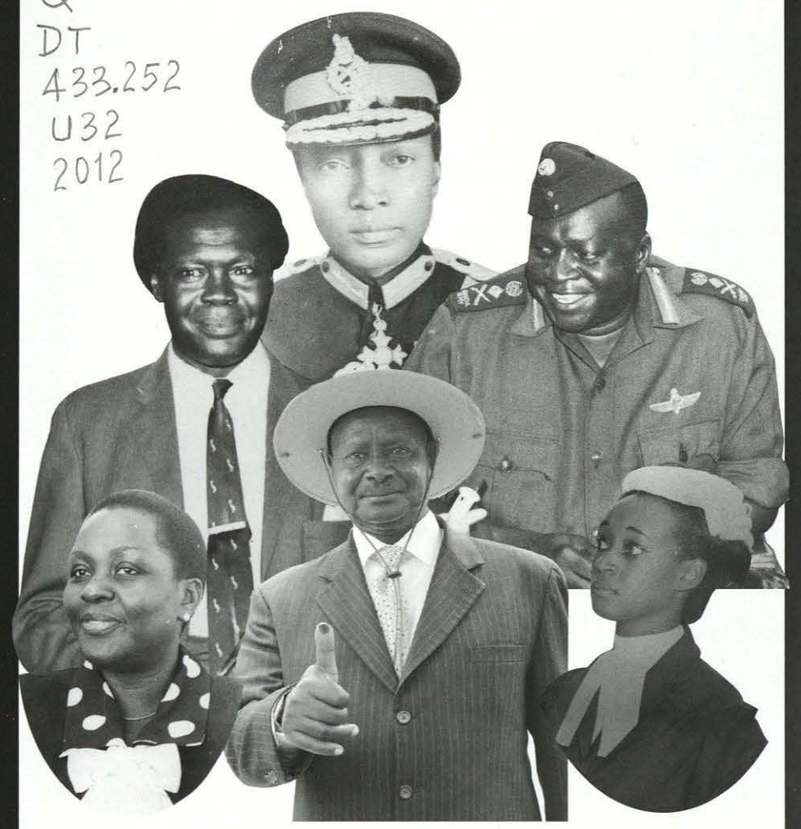

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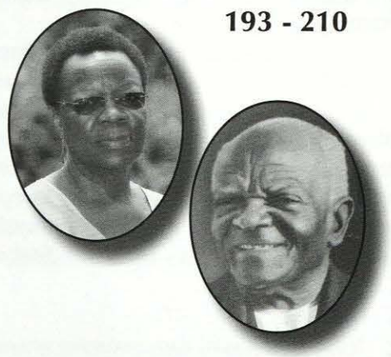

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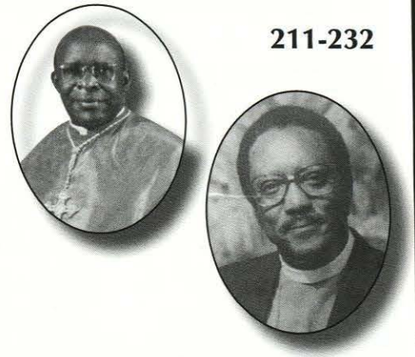

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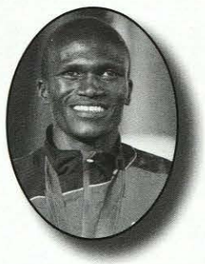

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More important, we thank God for giving us such a beautiful country and allowing us to celebrate the milestone [of] our national Golden Jubilee as one people and [a] nation.

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- Philip Omondi family
- Lt. Gen. Kale Kayihura
- Akii Bua family
- Harriet Masembe

Foreword

A Golden Jubilee gift to every Ugandan

At 50, a human being is fully grown and approaching the beginning of life. However, a nation at 50 is very young and still at its formative stages. Fifty years ago in Britain, as they prepared to grant Uganda independence, it was a privilege to have and only a few households could afford one, and a [in] 1953, meat, butter, cheese, sugar and sweets were still [as] the world recovered from the effects of the Second

[years] since the American Declaration of Independence [and] by their 150th birthday, America was still faced with [the] national congruence.

[In] 1961, President John F. Kennedy sought to accelerate [growth], and pressed for medical help for the elderly and [the] marginalised. Almost 50 years later, in his bid for re-election [in] America is still grappling with the similar issues.

[Fifty] years ago Uganda was still fragmented – over 50 ethnic groups, [cultures], and political, social and economic entities, all [for] survival and supremacy. And yet in 1962, by both design [and] of history, we became one nation. It is therefore amazing [what] we have achieved as a nation in this short time.

[Uganda] has excelled as a hub of civilisation in the region and notably [has] produced national leaders for all the countries in the region. Presidents [Mwai] Kibaki of Kenya, Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Joseph Kabila of [the] Congo and Benjamin Mkapa the third President of Tanzania were all educated [here].

We led in the emancipation of women by giving the region the first woman university graduate, first woman engineer, first woman doctor, first woman clergy, and first woman vice president.

But there were also trying moments like in the 1970s, when fear and instability reigned under Idi Amin. After Amin, another ugly chapter of political persecution opened; the failed democracy in 1980 and the Luweero war. Then came the Teso rebellion, the Alice Lakwena and Joseph Kony wars as well as the Allied Democratic Front activities.

A blend of good and bad has shaped Uganda, but most importantly, the difficult days, circumstances and times didn't obliterate Uganda off the map of Africa. The country survived just as other nations of the world like Great Britain and America weathered hard times and are now mature

Foreword

A Golden Jubilee gift to every Ugandan

At 50, a human being is fully grown and approaching the evening of life. However, a nation at 50 is very young and still at its formative stages. Fifty years ago in Britain, as they prepared to grant Uganda independence, it was a privilege to have a phone and only a few households could afford one; and a decade earlier in 1953, meat, butter, cheese, sugar and sweets were still being rationed as the world recovered from the effects of the Second World War.

It is now 231 years since the American Declaration of Independence was signed and, by their 150th birthday, America was still faced with civil wars towards national congruence.

At his election in 1961, President John F. Kennedy sought to accelerate economic growth, and pressed for medical help for the elderly and aid for the marginalised. Almost 50 years later, in his bid for re-election, Barack Obama is still grappling with the similar issues.

Only 50 years ago Uganda was still fragmented - over 50 ethnic groups, different cultures, and political, social and economic entities, all competing for survival and supremacy. And yet in 1962, by both design and accident of history, we became one nation. It is therefore amazing how much we have achieved as a nation in this short time.

Uganda has excelled as a hub of civilisation in the region, and notably produced national leaders for all the countries in the region: Presidents Mwai Kibaki of Kenya, Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Joseph Kabila of Congo and Benjamin Mkapa the third President of Tanzania were all educated here.

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A blend of good and bad has shaped Uganda, but most importantly the difficult days, circumstances and times didn't obliterate Uganda off the map of Africa. The country survived just as other nations of the world like Great Britain and America weathered hard times and are now mature.

> “The book is a rich compilation of the people who have made Uganda what she is today; From Ignatius Musaazi, the father of Uganda's independence, to Joseph Kony who has terrorised the region, we profile the heroes and villains of our history”

It is the realisation of our mortality that inspired us at the Vision Group to document and tell Uganda's story with such compulsion that all Ugandans, the ordinary and the elite can read and enjoy it.

We chose to do this by profiling people who have over the centuries greatly contributed to the formation of our nation. All Ugandans have contributed, true, but there are those who are outstanding and through them the story of Uganda can be told.

This is not a scholarly chronology, but rather a simple educative and informative book.

Once we had decided on the format, the challenge was the criterion for recognition: It has taken many people to build our nation and they were all deserving but we still had to choose only 148. No mean task!

We nominated people who have made visible impact in all areas of life, political, economic and social and the editorial board and working committee eventually agreed on the 148 names.

Oh no, we never quite agreed, rather we disagreed to agree, and to cater for other deserving people, we created a list of mentions at the end of the book.

We wanted to tell these stories with many pictures, but in some cases it was difficult to find the pictures. Sadly, the many years of mayhem have wiped out a lot of our historical documents.

Uganda: Building Of A Nation is a reference point, a coffee table book that should be kept in every sitting room, at every reception, in every library and in every classroom so that future generations do not lose track of our history.

With beautiful pictures and a simple magnetic style, the book tells the stories of both our heroes and villains alike and it is from these stories, both the good and bad, that we learn.

You do not need lots of time to study this book. *Uganda: Building Of A Nation* is a simple story book that can be read and discussed among families; it also offers spates of five-minute reads as you wait at a reception for your appointment.

For easy navigation, the book is divided into the broad sectors of politics and governance, the European influence, cultural leaders, security, legal, health, education, religion, social work, finance, trade and industry, media and the arts and sports.

Some individuals have contributed in many areas and it was difficult to place them in one section. These individuals were then classified dependant on the arena to which they contributed most.

The book is a rich compilation of the people who have made Uganda what she is today; From Ignatius Musaazi, the father of Uganda's independence and Benedict Kiwanuka, the first Prime Minster, to Joseph Kony who has terrorised the region. From Allidina Visram, the first trader to set up a shop in Kampala, to Florence Njagali the first woman clergy, to Stephen Kiprotich, the London 2012 Olympic gold medal winner; this book profiles the heroes and villains of our nation without doctoring our history.

Vision Group has a great team and we invest in innovation. A lot of work, resources and devotion have gone into researching, writing, editing and producing this book. And finally we are able to give a gift to our country as we celebrate our Golden Jubilee - our national story in indelible ink.

Barbara Mbabazi Kaija

Barbara Kaija
Editor-in-Chief, Vision Group

October 9, 2012